



**DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES REGULATION  
BOARD OF NURSE REGISTRATION AND NURSING EDUCATION**

3 Capitol Hill, Conference Room 401, Providence, Rhode Island

**Monday, April 13, 2015 @ 8:47 am**

**OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Linda Twardowski, President  
Jessica Brier  
Elizabeth Bloom  
Anne Tierney  
Maria Ducharme  
Lynn Blanchette  
Kathleen Heron  
Kristen Young  
Joanne Matthew  
Maria Pezzillo  
Delores Walters

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

Diane Blier  
Marie Jean

**STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Jane Morgan, Chief Legal Counsel  
Donna Costantino, Chief, Office of Health Professions  
Kimberly McNulty, Chief Implementation Aide

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Donna Policastro, ANA – RI  
Bob Casey, Pro Se  
Mary Sullivan, University of Rhode Island  
Rosemary Costigan, Community College of Rhode Island  
Jeanne McColl, Community College of Rhode Island  
Hilary Jansson, Community College of Rhode Island  
Jean Marie Rocha, HARI  
Linda McDonald, UNAP  
Eleanor Clapprood, NPARI  
Patty Delucia, Lincoln Tech, Regional Director  
Mary Barlas, Lincoln Tech, Director of Nursing

1. Establishment of a quorum

A meeting of the Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education was held on Monday, April 13, 2015 at the Rhode Island Department of Health, Conference Room 401, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. A quorum was established and the Open Session meeting was called to order at 8:47 am on a motion by Linda Twardowski and seconded by Jessica Brier. Motion carried.

2. Presentation of the March 9, 2015 Open Session Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Anne Tierney and seconded by Delores Walters to make a revision to the March 9, 2015 Minutes within item 3(e) to state the following:

*Motion was made by Jessica Brier and seconded by Anne Tierney that anyone on inactive status for any reason will not be eligible for on-line renewal, however, the licensee does not need to come before the Board of Nursing.*

Motion was made by Anne Tierney and seconded by Kristen Young to accept the changes and approve the April 13, 2015, Minutes once the change is made. The Board voted unanimously to approve the revised Open Session minutes. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the revised Open Session Minutes from the January 12, 2015, meeting. Motion was made by Anne Tierney and seconded by Jessica Brier to accept the revised minutes. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Open Session minutes as presented. Motion carried.

3. President's Report:

a. Journal of Nursing Regulation, Volume 6, Issue 1 April 2015

President Twardowski distributed the journal to all interested parties.

b. Executive Director vacancy

President Twardowski began by thanking all Board members for their extra help during the absence of a Board of Nursing Director. Donna Costantino stated the position has been posted and applications will be accepted through May 5, 2015.

c. Nurse Compact Legislation

The Nurse Compact Bill was heard before the House on April 7<sup>th</sup> at which time it was decided to hold for further study. The Senate is scheduled to hear the Bill this week. President Twardowski and Maria Ducharme plan to attend the hearing.

Attorney Morgan stated that the statute implies that each state should be tracking who is in their state practicing. The Board discussed requiring facilities to report how many Compact Nurse and Travel Nurses are currently working within each facility.

d. Statutory changes

The Board discussed various statutes currently in place regarding fees associated with nursing licenses (i.e. § 5-34-12, 5-34-21, and 5-34-19). The discussion centered on the Board's ability to charge a late fee for tardy license renewals. Jane Morgan, Chief Legal Counsel, stated the current statutes do allow for some liberty for a penalty. Attorney Morgan will provide the Board a Memorandum on this subject she previously developed for the former Board of Nursing Director outlining her legal opinion.

The Board will continue to discuss this matter once additional information is received in order to develop a new policy or possibly draft statutory changes for the Director of Health's review.

e. Licensing Concerns for all nurses

- i. Late renewals
- ii. Active/inactive
- iii. Reinstatement
- iv. Renewal process

The Board continued its discussion regarding establishing a \$10 fee for each 30 days a nurse's license is late for renewal. Donna Costantino will work with the L2K programmers on the system's ability to apply this fee.

f. Midyear meeting March 16-22

Elizabeth Bloom attended the Midyear meeting and stated it was very informative and well run. One of the main subjects discussed was the Nurse Compact Law.

g. NCLEX update for nursing undergrad programs

Resolved, no discussion.

h. Medicare access and CHIP reauthorization—Donna Policastro

Discussion regarding pending legislation concerning reimbursements for LPN.

i. Distance/online education for nursing pre and post licensure programs-Bradley University, Columbia College

Columbia College would like to offer an RN to BSN degree program online in the State of Rhode Island and is seeking the Board's approval to do so. The Board only approves the pre-licensure programs available and does not have the jurisdiction in this area. President Twardowski will instruct the College to contact the Board of Education.

j. NCSBN May 4, 2015, Delegates Meeting

President Twardowski is unable to attend this meeting. She informed the Board that two delegates are needed with two alternates. Any Board members interested in volunteering their time to attend may contact her directly.

k. Open Board seats

Not discussed

l. Virtual NCSBN regulatory conference April 28<sup>th</sup>

President Twardowski stated that very basic information is shared on this virtual conference.

m. NCLEX conference September 21, 2015, in Portland, Oregon

The conference is open for all to attend. President Twardowski stated this meeting is very helpful for nursing educators to attend and see how each exam is developed.

4. Old Business

- Reports from the work groups of the Board of Nursing:

- i. Task Force on Education, Lead: Maria Pezzillo

- No updates given.

- ii. Task Force on Skill Remediation, Lead: Kristen Young

- The Board was advised that Charter Oak has requested to add Rhode Island to their program flyer as having approved of its program. Jane Morgan stated this request should be forwarded to the Director of Health for approval. President Twardowski will contact Charter Oak and state that the Board does not wish to be listed in their flyer.

- iii. Task Force for Website Improvement: Workgroup

- No updates given.

- iv. Task Force for Nursing Basic Education BON seats

- No updates given.

5. New Business

a. CCRI Presentation

Presenters from CCRI's Nursing Faculty provided the Board with its proposed Curriculum Changes outlining a five semester 64 credit Associate Degree in Nursing. The report discusses the Rationale, Desirability, Risk to the Public, Comparison of the Old and New Curriculum, the Expected Impact, its Timeline and Plan to Evaluate.

After the presentation and followed by questions from the Board, Maria Ducharme made a Motion to accept and approve the proposed revised curriculum seconded by

Jessica Brier. The Board unanimously approved the Motion with Maria Pezzillo abstaining from the vote.

b. Lincoln Technical Institute: Introduction of the new Director of Nursing, Mary Barlas.

Lincoln Tech's Regional Director, Patty Deluca, introduced Mary Barlas, their new Director of Nursing for the school. Ms. Barlas spoke about her experience and submitted her resume to the Board for its review.

c. Public Comment:

i. Licensing of Nursing Service Agencies: Linda McDonald

Linda McDonald questioned Rhode Island's requirements for placement agencies and the licensing of its travel nurses. The Board's Legal Counsel, Jane Morgan, will provide a legal opinion based on the Board's discussion and Rhode Island statute.

ii. Re Title 23 ( 23-17.7.1-15)

See C(i).

d. Clinical Laboratory Science Practitioner License: question regarding RN's and LPNs perform this work or do they need to be licensed?

The Board has requested a specific question regarding this subject matter be submitted and discussed at its May meeting.

e. RN Scope of Practice: replace/change a gastrostomy feeding tube in the home care environment.

The Board has discussed this matter previously and concluded that if the nurse is properly trained and competent in this area of practice then they may perform this procedure.

A Motion was made by Jessica Brier and seconded by Anne Tierney that changing and reinstalling a gastrostomy feeding tube is within the scope of regular nursing practice provided the individual is competent to do so in any setting. Motion carried with Kathleen Heren opposing.

6. Motion to adjourn to Closed Session

Motion was made by Anne Tierney and seconded by Jessica Brier to adjourn to Closed Session at 11:40 am. Motion carried. Pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(1) of the Rhode Island General Laws, for the purpose of discussing job performance, character, physical or mental health of applicants for licensure. Said individuals have been notified in advance by writing that they may request that the discussion be held at an open meeting.

Also, pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(4) of the Rhode Island General Laws, for investigatory proceedings regarding allegations of civil or criminal misconduct.

7. Return to Open Session

Motion was made by Maria Pezzillo and seconded by Delores Walters to re-open the Open Session. Motion was made by Jessica Brier and seconded by Maria Ducharme to seal the Minutes of the Closed Session pursuant to Sections 42-46-4, 42-46-5 and 42-46-7 of the Rhode Island General Laws. Motion carried.

8. Final Actions on all votes taken in Closed Session

- The board proposed action on twelve (12) cases.

9. Adjournment

The next Board of Nursing Registration and Nursing Education meeting will be held Monday, May 11, 2015 at 8:45 AM at the Rhode Island Department of Health, Conference Room 401, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. Motion was made by Kristen Young and seconded by Delores Walters to adjourn at 3:20 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly McNulty  
Chief Implementation Aide  
Office of Health Professionals Regulation